INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Hydroelectric Plant at Mingechaur

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25X1

25X1

1. The Mingechaur GES (Gosudarstvennaya Elektrostantsia) (State Power Plant) was under construction at a point near Mingechaur (40°45' N/47°03' E), Azerbaydzhan S.S.R., where the mountains approach the Kura River on both sides. Between these mountains a dam was under construction. Farther upstream, where the valley widens, a reservoir was planned to supply the Mingechaur GES and irrigate the valley of the Kura River. [redacted] the reservoir would have a surface of about 650 square kilometers and a volumetric capacity of about 18 cubic kilometers. A single-track, dead-end railroad spur, which led to the construction site from Yevlakh (40°37' N/47°09' E) via Mingechaur and facilitated hauling construction materials, was completed by August 1949. Yevlakh is situated on the railroad line from Baku (40°25' N/49°50' E) to Tbilisi (41°42' N/44°45' E).

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2. Construction of the hydroelectric power plant at Mingechaur was started by Americans as early as 1925 to 1930, but the project was abandoned because of poor soil conditions. The soil of the valley consisted of loess, the mountains of sandstone. The project was reconsidered by the Soviets after the war, and preliminary work was resumed in 1945 and 1946. However, full-scale construction work started only after the arrival of American dredges and pumping equipment in mid-1946. [redacted] two turbines were scheduled for completion in 1950 and that the whole hydroelectric plant would be finished in 1952. [redacted] Shipments comprised transformers, control equipment, electromotors, copper rails, large cable reels, instruments, and construction machinery, including a 110-ton hoisting crane from Eberswalde (N 53/V 08), East Germany.

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3. In addition to the dam and the hydroelectric power plant, the project included a by-pass culvert, a transformer plant, a transmission line, a subsidiary power station for use during construction work, a railroad bridge, a concrete mixing plant, a plant for fittings, and a workshop for iron structures (Prom-Kombinat). Soviet posters at the building site stated that the hydroelectric plant was scheduled to have five turbines capable of generating a total of 300,000 kw. An interim capacity of 150,000 kw was to be attained by 1950. [redacted] reporting agreed that this plan would not be fulfilled. The posters further claimed that eventually the power plant would generate 1,300,000,000 kw-h per year.

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25X1 [redacted] Comment: For a sketch of the construction project of the Mingechaur GES, see Attachment. The sketch was drawn from corresponding sketches made by Pks. Prom-Kombin stands for Promyshlennyy Kombinat (Industrial Combine). In this case, it encompasses the metal-working shops engaged in construction of the power plant and its auxiliary installations.

25X1 [redacted] Comment: The power plant was not fully completed by August 1952. Pravda stated on 21 August 1952 that at least one turbine for the plant was still under construction in Leningrad.

25X1 [redacted] Comment: According to other information, the plant was to begin supplying power to the industries of Baku in the first half of 1953.

Attachment [ ] 25X1

Layout Sketch of the Hydroelectric Power Plant at Mingechaur, Azerbaydzhan SSR

Legend: See next page